

General Overview

It is often said that if you have a business brain with a liberal arts heart, International Business is the major for you. This is true as far as it goes, but no matter what type of heart you have, your brain should tell you that all business is global today. The rise of the internet and other technological advances should make it clear to everyone that no matter what line of business you are in or where your firm is physically located, you are competing for sales, for raw materials, for financial resources, and for talent with companies from around the globe. Companies desire to hire people who understand the global business environment.

Potential Careers

The IB major offers great flexibility. There are no specific tracks that must be followed. Working with a faculty adviser, you will have the ability to largely design your own major to suit your desired career path, which might include, among others:

- Consulting- Advising companies on how to fix problems they are having in their international operations
- International Trade and Logistics – Assisting companies with obtaining resources and moving products to global markets
- Transfer Pricing- shifting assets, both tangible and intangible, across borders to optimize a company's financial position
- International Tax- helping foreign companies file their US taxes (and vice versa)
- Data Science- collection and use of data for a global company
- International Trade- facilitating transactions in goods and/or services between companies in different countries
- Government positions- State Department, Commerce Department, CIA
- NGO's- nonprofit work typically working to solve social, environmental, or political problems

Related Student Organizations

- International Business Student Association
- AIESEC-Austin
- International Affairs Society

Overview of Classes*

- Standard business core classes
- IB 350- International Trade and Investment
 - This class addresses both theoretical and practical dimensions of the global economy.

- IB 378- International Business Operations
 - Establishment and conduct of international business operations: trade, investments, branch and subsidiary management, intermediary functions; case studies in international enterprise.
- 9 hours of Area Studies
 - Specific to a country, subject to the approval of the IB Faculty advisor
- 6 Elective hours
 - FIN 376- International Finance
 - MAN 337- Intercultural Management
 - IB 372- various topics, including Business in the European Union, Global Entrepreneurship, and Exporting for Entrepreneurs
 - MKT 372- Global Marketing
- Intermediate Proficiency in the language of your country of study
 - 12 hours, 6 of which must be upper division.

*Consult the International Business degree plan for your course catalog at <https://my.mcombs.utexas.edu/BBA/Advising/Degree-Planning/Degree-Plans>

Major-Specific Information or Requirements

- You **must** study abroad for at least 6 weeks
- Your area studies, language, and study abroad must be related (i.e. you can't take Korean, European area studies, and study abroad in Brazil). It must be a specific country focus (take Spanish, Spain area studies, study abroad in Spain)
- Your degree plan must be approved by the faculty advisor through the IB planner

Related Study Abroad Trips

- Any of them, but the Prague summer program is suggested.
- **Pro tip:** If you want to study abroad for *only* a summer, **do not** do a McCombs Summer Program. They will not count for the study abroad requirement. A semester long study abroad meets the requirement.
- **Pro tip:** The best time to study abroad for a semester is your Junior spring or Senior fall (assuming you already have a job lined up).

Upperclassmen Contact Information

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FAQ

- Must I work in another country?
 - No, absolutely not. You will be better at many (perhaps most) jobs located in the U.S. if you deeply understand the global aspects of the modern business world.
- Do I need foreign language knowledge before I come in?

- No! UT has several fantastic language programs that start you off at the beginner level, and then work up to become fluent in the language of your choice.
- What do I learn with an international business major?
 - This depends on what you make of it. This writer personally has a huge love of government, especially in Europe, so I took advantage of the government classes and that covered my Area Studies. However, there are many things you can do. For example, IB majors have tailored their course work to their specific professional interests such as banking, the energy industry, consumer goods, art markets, corporate security and risk management, supply chains, linguistics, and much more.
- Do I need international experience beforehand?
 - No. Many international business majors have never left the United States, nor do they speak a language other than English. The IB major teaches everything that you could need to know when it comes to international experience.
- What do I learn in IB that makes me a more competitive hire?
 - How to work and live in a globalized society, heightened cultural awareness, and a new global perspective. You'll have all the know-how of other business majors, plus knowledge of how the modern business world works. Not to mention, you'll also be proficient in another language.
- Why should I major in IB instead of International Relations (IRG)?
 - IRG is a wonderful course of study, though it generally focuses on preparing you for government or NGO work, or to go to grad school. If you have a more practical business focus, IB will give you the knowledge and skills you need to succeed globally.
- Can I double major or get a minor?
 - Absolutely! The flexibility of this major allows for you to get a second major, a minor, or both. Common second majors are the language or area studies that you are using for your IB major. Take advantage of what UT has to offer. So, yes, get a minor or a second major if you want!

Note: Beginning in 2020-2021, the IB major will receive a significant overhaul. However, by choosing an IB major now, you can ensure that the requirements of the current degree plan are the only ones you will need to satisfy in order to graduate.